

GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY 65102

P.O.Box 720 (573) 751-3222

February 20, 2014

Dear Representative:

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON

GOVERNOR

I am writing to bring your immediate attention to the action of the House Budget Committee omitting \$44.1 million in K-12 education funding from the Fiscal Year 2014 supplemental budget.

The Fiscal Year 2014 budget that was passed overestimated the revenue that would be available from riverboat gaming, lottery and other revenues dedicated to the school foundation formula. As a result, our local schools stand to receive \$44.1 million less than what was appropriated for the current school year. That is why my supplemental budget request includes \$44.1 million in general revenue for our K-12 classrooms to make up for this shortfall.

Unfortunately, earlier this week the House Budget Committee voted for a supplemental budget that failed to include these resources. If allowed to stand, this would leave Missouri's K-12 classrooms \$44.1 million short of what the legislature appropriated to K-12 education for the current fiscal year.

Cutting \$44.1 million from this year's budget will leave our local schools with less money than was promised to them for the current school year. The committee's refusal to include these education funds is unnecessary and unacceptable, as general revenue is available to support this supplemental request. When this measure comes to the floor, I urge you to restore this \$44.1 million to ensure that our schools receive the resources upon which their budgets are based and upon which they are depending.

I ask you to live up to the commitments made in the budget you passed last year and immediately restore this essential funding, so that our classrooms get the resources they need and were promised.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon

Governor